

From: [Joachim Mueller](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings](#)
Subject: Contesting Assessment 218815
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 11:42:59 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am contesting the vacant building fee for my property 1238 Marion St, which sustained substantial damage due to a fire started by the tenants on November 7th, 2020. Shortly after the incident I spoke with the city inspector, James Hoffman, who told me, if I understood him correctly, that the vacant building fee would be waived for a few months. If no repairs would be done, the fee would be collected.

In December 2020 I received a letter from the city indicating that the fee is past due and will be sent to assessment in 15 days. Because the letter and accompanying appeal form were confusing to me, I called the city to explain the situation and ask for a waiver as I am dealing with insurance and restoration companies, which will take time, especially during a pandemic. At the end of the phone call I was under the impression that the fee would be waived for now and no further action was needed at this time.

I received another letter last week regarding the ratification of assessment and realized that the fee has been applied. After speaking with Mr. Hoffman again about my situation, I am appealing the assessment because the property will be rebuilt and therefore eliminate the vacant building status. The permit application was submitted on May 13th and all documents have been uploaded for review.

While handling the fallout of the fire damage has been both a challenging and unfamiliar process, I have been trying to responsibly and diligently address the situation to the best of my abilities. I am asking you to kindly consider waiving this assessment.

Best regards,

Joachim Mueller